

As a communications teacher, media advocate, and filmmaker, I am writing to express my deep concern over Sinclair Broadcasting plans to air an anti-Senator Kerry program. By doing so, Sinclair not only violates the laws of sound journalism thereby letting down its viewers - the American people - but it also compromises its own integrity as a viable news outlet.

The implications of Sinclair's decision are broad and dangerous: Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies like Sinclair control the airwaves, and then choose to air one-sided, non-objective programs - two weeks before a presidential election, no less - the democratic process is undoubtedly threatened.

The FCC - of ALL places - should understand best the important historic role that American airwaves, which by law must represent all voices, opinions, and issues our citizens' face, play in the continuing success of a democracy like ours.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.